

Appl. No. 09/755,470
Amdt. dated July 17, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 19, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A wired network for providing secure, authenticated access to wireless network clients, comprising:

a server connected to a wireless network access point, and having access to the wired network, the server being operative to perform authentication for a wireless client establishing a connection to the server through the wireless network access point, the server performing authentication by examining authentication information transmitted from the client to the server and determining whether or not the authentication information identifies the wireless network client as authorized to gain access to the wired network, the server being operative to establish a connection session upon authentication of a client, the server being also operative to provide the client with a wired network address valid for the connection session upon authentication of the client, the server being further operative to encrypt communications with the wireless network access point, the server being further operative to provide a cryptographic key valid for the connection session to the client upon authentication of the client; and

a user database accessible to the server for use in validating wireless clients.

2. (original) The wired network according to claim 1 and also including a network hub providing connections between the server and additional resources on the wired network.

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3. (original) The wired network according to claim 1 and also including a router providing connections between the server and additional resources on the wired network as well as a connection to an additional wired network.

4. (original) The wired network according to claim 2 wherein the server is operative to provide addresses to clients through dynamic host control protocol.

5. (original) The wired network according to claim 4 wherein the server is operative to communicate with a wireless network client using point to point tunneling protocol.

6. (original) The wired network according to claim 5 wherein the server employs 128-bit cryptoprocessing to communicate with the wireless network client.

7. (previously presented) A wireless network for providing secure authenticated communication between clients of the wireless network and a wired network, comprising:

a wireless network access point operative to establish a connection with a server operating as a portal between the wireless network and a wired network, the wireless network access point being operative to conduct communications with the server in order to authenticate wireless network clients as authorized to access the wired network, the wireless network access point being further operative to receive authentication information from one or more wireless network clients and transfer the authentication information to the server in order to allow the server to examine the authentication information for a wireless network client and determine if the information indicates that the wireless network client is authorized to access the wired network, the wireless network access point being further operative and to receive a

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cryptoprocessing key from the server upon authentication of a client and to transfer the key to that client; and

a plurality of wireless network clients operative to establish connections with the wireless network access point, each client being operative to conduct encrypted communications with the server through the access point, to pass authentication information to the network access point in order to indicate to a server communicating with the wireless network and a wired network whether or not the wireless client is authorized to gain access to the wired network, each wireless network client being further operative to receive address information and cryptoprocessing data from the network access point upon authentication by the server in order to allow communication with the wired network, each client being operative to conduct encrypted transfer of data to and from the wired network through the access point upon receiving the address and cryptoprocessing information.

8. (original) The wireless network of claim 7 wherein the access point communicates with the server using point to point tunneling protocol.

9. (original) The wireless network of claim 8, also including a hub connecting the wireless network access point and a plurality of additional network access points, each additional network access point communicating with a plurality of additional wireless network clients, the wireless network access point and the additional network access points being operative to establish connections with the server through the network hub.

10. (previously presented) A method of secure communication between wireless network clients and a wired network, comprising the steps of:

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establishing a connection between a wireless network access point and a security base
(SB) server connected to the wired network;

establishing a connection between the SB server and a wireless network client
communicating with the SB server through the wireless network access point;

exchanging encryption keys between the SB server and the wireless network client;

transmitting authentication information from the wireless network client to the SB server
through the wireless network access point;

performing authentication for the wireless network client by examining the authentication
information to determine if the wireless network client is authorized to gain access to the wired
network;

if authentication fails, rejecting connection to the wired network; and

if authentication passes, accepting connection to the wired network, providing a
temporary wired network address and a unique session encryption key to the wireless network
client and providing access to wired network resources in response to requests by the wireless
network client.

11. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of rejecting connection to
the wired network is accompanied by a step of logging the rejection and wherein the step of
accepting the connection is accompanied by a step of logging the acceptance.

12. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of providing a temporary
wired network address to the wireless network client includes using dynamic host control
protocol to provide the address.

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13. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein communication between the wireless network client and the wired network server is performed using point to point tunneling protocol.

14. (original) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of performing authentication for the wireless network client includes transferring authentication information between the wireless network client and the SB server and wherein the authentication information is encrypted using public key cryptography.

15. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the step of providing a unique session encryption key includes encrypting the unique session encryption key using public key cryptography.